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Directions of the winds in proportional numbers, viz :—N. W. 18—N. E. 12—S. W. 12—S. E. 2—N. 1—W. 1.

Remarks on the month of January.

During this month De Luc's Hygrometer has ranged between 40 and 65, standing at a mean, at 51.31. The predominant form of the clouds has been that of the Cirro-stratus, often accompanied by some variety of the Cirrus.

The electrical state of the air on the evening of the 17th, was very uncommon. In the earlier part of the evening, the wind was blowing from the N. E., and the Thermometer descended to 17.5°. But after a short calm, the wind suddenly changed to S. E., attended, at first, by snow and rain, and flashes of lightning; the Thermometer rose rapidly, while the Barometer fell to 28.89. At this time, three persons, crossing the bridge over the Androscoggin, observed the *borders* of their hats to be *luminous*; and when they held up their hands, covered with woolen gloves, the ends of their fingers were also *luminous*. These appearances were observed *on the bridge only*.

Miscellaneous and Literary Intelligence.

POSTSCRIPT

To the article respecting the Bricks lately brought from Babylon.

At the Atheneum, in Boston, is now to be seen one of the bricks brought by Captain Austen from Babylon, and by him presented to that excellent institution. It will be remembered, that these bricks are said either to have been baked in the sun, or to have been burned; and the present specimen appears to have been of the former description. Its outside is clay-coloured; but viewed within, at a broken part in certain lights, the present brick seems to exhibit some marks of an *extremely* pale pink colour. It rings, upon being struck with a hard body in particular positions; and besides its regularly impressed characters, it has figures of a purely accidental description on its outside, apparently formed by straws, with which the brick had come into contact while in its soft state. If we judge from certain straight impressions observable in different directions in the interior of the bricks; the clay had also straw worked into it, in order to give to it tenacity.

The *impression of regular characters* made on this brick is indistinct in many respects. This want of distinctness in the characters, and the comparative want of firmness in the material itself favour, therefore, the persuasion, that the characters on the sun-burnt bricks were *not* intended to be studied *individually*, though something doubtless was intended to be understood by means of the impressions stamped upon them, considered *generally*. The carelessness, indeed, with which the stamp has been placed on this and on others of these bricks, seems to indicate the haste of an ignorant labourer, rather than work performed under the direction of a skilful artist, or a man of science.

Bricks thus rudely manufactured and stamped, and of which the characters are not always readily to be traced afterwards by the eye, may easily be supposed to have been wrought with a view to their being laid *horizontally*, so as to form strong brick work in a wall; for how could such characters be examined with precision, even in the case of such bricks being placed on their edges? and if placed on their edges, how could such bricks remain solidly in their places? and how little costly labour was *sacrificed*, when stamped impressions of the above description were buried flat in walls? This cannot be said of the characters found at Persepolis, which are cut in *marble*, and which are soon to be mentioned; for these, from the first, were designed to become objects of lasting observation. The Babylonian bricks *burnt with fire*, may in various instances admit of the same remarks.

The brick at present lodged in the Atheneum, has the *dimensions* usually assigned to the Babylonian bricks, by different authors.

It should lastly be added, that this brick is accompanied by the favour of Captain Austen, with specimens of the *vegetable substances* frequently found placed between the courses of bricks at Babylon; and that in the present instance, these vegetables are said to have been found lodged between every two courses.

A letter, written by the companion of Capt. Austen, and published in the Boston Centinel of Feb. 22, 1816, has given a few separate observations, which occurred in this excursion of Capt. Austen's party from the Gulf of Persia to Bagdad.

Respecting the passage from Pliny, quoted at page 339, of the present Review, the celebrated Mr. Jackson in his *Chronological Antiquities*, thus translates the whole of it. "Epigenes, an author of principal note and regard, informs us that the Babylonians had celestial observations wrote upon *tiles* for a course of seven hundred and twenty years: and the lowest computation of them by Berosus and Critodemus, was four hundred and eighty

years; whence, says he, [that is Pliny,] it appears that the use of letters is eternal, (or from all ages:)"—[*Ex quo apparat æternus literarum usus.*] Mr. Jackson, however, though he allows that the text of all the present copies of Pliny admit of this interpretation; yet affirms, either that the letter M (signifying a *thousand*) was omitted after 720 and after 480, or else that a stroke was wanting over these numerals, also signifying a thousand; by the introduction of either of which into the text of Pliny, these numbers would become respectively 720,000 and 480,000. He confesses, that Isaac Vossius and Perigorius saw the necessity of this correction, which he himself says renders the passage conformable to the assertion of Berosus; but he adds, that the two critics just named, did not consider (as they ought to have done) that these Chaldean *years* were *days*, three hundred and sixty-five of which made a common Chaldean year. The change in the text here proposed somewhat more than triples the periods now found in Pliny.

In the course of his discussion, Mr. Jackson introduces the following note:—

"Writing upon *stone* or *tile*, was the most ancient way; and the former was used in Phœnicia and Egypt, by Tadut or Thoth, who wrote his History of the First Ages, and his Theology, on pillars or tables of stone; and perhaps Belus first taught the Babylonians and Chaldeans the way of writing on *tiles* at Babylon, where there was no stone. And therefore the prophet Ezekiel at Babylon is ordered to make a symbolical pourtray (or figure) of Jerusalem upon a *tile*, which was to be a prophetic sign of its destruction by the King of Babylon." Ch. iv, v. 1, &c. See Jackson, as above, vol. i, p. 217–222.

While treating the above subject, Mr. Jackson makes another remark, which regards the noted passage in Genesis xi, v. 3. He intimates, that the translation which gives *slime* for the cement, is to be rejected; and that the word *bitumen* is to be substituted for slime; for he affirms, that Josephus so understood it, and that he therefore rendered the Hebrew word by that of *asphaltis*. Antiq. Jud. lib. i, c. 4. (See Jackson, as above; p. 223.) It will be recollected, that "the children of men" said, "go to, let us make bricks, and *burn* them thoroughly:" and it may be conceived, that bricks *burnt thoroughly*, required to be laid in something harder than slime; namely, in bitumen, which formed the harder cement of the Babylonians.

As to the *arrow-headed* character, which has been observed at Persepolis, in marble; (which marble some have described as white, and others as black) this marble, we are told, is *fixed in walls*, with the inscription placed *outwardly*.

Flowers, an agent of the English East India company, in the seventeenth century, has given a drawing of an inscription of this kind, contained in two lines; which sufficiently corresponds with the arrow-headed characters seen at Babylon. Dr. Hyde, (in his work *De Religione veterum Persarum*,) again exhibits the engraving from Flowers; and places much reliance on the fidelity of the drawing by Flowers, because it contained *points*, answering to the full periods in our punctuation, all which are wanting in the drawings of the same characters made by Herbert and by Thevenot.

Flowers is said to have taken more drawings of characters of this kind, but his death prevented their being duly noticed. He conceived them to have been used by the Guebres, or to have been talismanick.

The following is the summary of the principal points of Dr. Hyde's own opinion on these subjects. 1. That the characters, as has been observed, were peculiar to Persepolis; an assertion in which he has erroneously copied Flowers, as being a traveller of some experience. 2. That the characters did not represent *flame*, [though this might have been suspected in Persia, where fire worshippers abound,] and his reason is, because the pyramid formed by flame is always turned upwards, and never downwards. 3. That these characters were never designed for letters, but sprang from mere fancy of the architect, who was fond of the figure of a *wedge* or *little sword*, and tried into how many forms he could combine these, placing a point after each of their combinations. 4. That this is confirmed by the recollection, that the Persians had no writing formed otherwise than by *letters*. 5. That the names of no Persian monarchs could be represented by these characters; the names of these princes always consisted of several syllables. 6. That the order observed in placing these characters, was from left to right; contrary to the habits of Persian writing and reading. 7. That the marble containing these characters at Persepolis was so fixed into the walls of the palace, as to prove that it was placed there when the palace was *originally built*, and consequently that the character must have been extremely ancient.

See the London Phil. Trans. No. 201. See also Hyde's second edition of his work *De Religione Veterum Persarum*, at the part of the *Index Sculptarum*, referring to plate XIX, given at p. 447, with the explanation to be found in the appendix, article 10, p. 546—548.

The *Palmyrene* characters have been thought by some, and even by Dr. Hyde, (see as above, p. 554,) to have resembled those found engraven on marble at Persepolis; but the mistake

will instantly manifest itself, on comparing the characters given by Flowers and Hyde, with the Palmyrene characters to be seen in Wood's great work on the ruins of Palmyra.

The name of *nail-headed*, given by some to these characters, refers perhaps (as has been well observed) to the shape of such nails as are put into our modern horse-shoes. These characters are called by others *pyramidal*, while others, as has been seen, call them *arrow-headed*, &c. The several names hitherto employed by English writers on this occasion, are, in general, sufficiently appropriate.

The suddenness with which this subject has come upon the American publick, and the defect of most American libraries, with respect to certain parts of oriental literature, especially as treated by learned travellers and others within the last few years, render it impossible to throw the necessary light on the characters here in question. Even after we shall have seen what has been said by Dr. Wilkins, Dr. Hayes, Mr. Rich, M. Lichtenstein, and others, on this subject, we shall, perhaps, still be left in this, as we are likely to be in many other cases, namely, in a state of *learned ignorance*.

Notice des Tableaux, &c.—Notice of the Pictures recovered by the city of Antwerp, of the works of art brought back from France, exhibited at the Museum. By authority of the Governor of the Province. Antwerp, L. P. Delacroix, 1816. This is a pamphlet giving some account of nearly fifty paintings, most of them from the pencils of Rubens and Van Dyck. The subjects are as follows.

- No. 1. Descent from the Cross, (*Rubens*) 14 3-4 ft. high by 11 ft. broad.
2. The Purification, 14 1-3 ft. by 5 1-2 ft.
3. The Visitation, 14 1-3 by 5 1-2 ft.
4. The Assumption of the Virgin, (*Rubens*) 17 ft. 7 in. by 11 ft. 8 in.
5. The Elevation on the cross, (*Rubens*) 16 ft. by 12.
6. Preparation for the punishment of the Thieves, 16 ft. 2 by 5 ft. 6.
7. The Virgin Mother and the Apostle St. John, same dimensions.
8. Christ on the Cross between the Thieves, (*Rubens*) 15 ft. by 11.
9. The Worshipping of the Magi, (*Rubens*) 16 ft. by 12.
10. Communion of St. Francis, (*Rubens*) 14 3-4 ft. by 8.
11. Christ taken down from the Cross, (*Rubens*) 5 ft. by 3. ft. 3.

12. The Virgin and the infant Jesus.
13. St. John, the Evangelist.
14. The Scourging, (*Rubens*) 7 ft. 8 by 5 ft. 8.
15. Christ shewing his wounds to St. Thomas, (*Rubens*) 5 ft. by 4 ft. 3 in.
16. Portrait of Roekers, a friend of Rubens.
17. Portrait of his wife.
18. Christ dead in the arms of the Father, the Holy Ghost descending; intended to represent the Trinity, (*Rubens*) 5 ft. 7 by 5 ft. 5.
19. St. Augustin in extacy, (*Van Dyck*) 13 ft. 6 by 7 ft. 10.
20. Christ dead, in the lap of the Virgin; a Magdalen kneeling holds one of his hands, which she bathes with tears; St. John standing by weeping, (*Van Dyck*) 10 ft. 7 by 7 ft. 9.
21. Christ on the Cross; on the right St. Dominic, on the left St. Catharine of Sienna, (*Van Dyck*) 11 ft. 1 by 8 ft. 7.
22. Christ dead, in the lap of the Virgin, (*Van Dyck*) 4 ft. 2 by 7 ft. 4.
23. Fall of the Rebel Angels, (*De Vriendt*) 11 ft. 2. by 7 ft. 10.
24. The bearing of the Cross, (*Van Dyck*) 7 ft. 5 by 5 ft. 8.
25. The same as No. 1. but smaller size, (*Rubens*) 4 ft. 5 by 3 ft. 3.
26. The General Judgment, (*De Backer.*)
27. St. Anne teaching the Virgin to read, (*Rubens*) 6. ft. 9. by 4 ft. 19.
28. Christ on the Cross, (*Rubens*) 7. ft. 9. by 4 ft. 4.
29. Christ in the lap of the Virgin, (*Van Dyck.*)
30. Resurrection of Christ, (*Rubens*) 6 ft. 3 by 4 ft. 5.
31. John the Baptist.
32. St. Catharine.
33. Conference of the Doctors of the Church upon the Eucharist, 13 ft. by 8 ft. 7.
34. The Worshipping of the Shepherds, (*Rubens*) 14 ft. 2 by 10 ft. 4.
35. A painting by *Cornille Devos*.
36. Portrait of Alex. Scaglia, minister of Spain at the Congress of Munster, (*Van Dyck*) 6 ft. 8 by 4 ft.
37. All-Saint's day, (*Rubens.*)
38. The Virgin presenting the infant Jesus to St. Francis, (*Rubens*) 8 ft. by 6 ft. 2.
39. The Martyrdom of St. Apollina, (*Jordaens*) 16 ft. 14 by 7 ft. 10.
40. Christ on the Cross between the virgin, St. John and a Magdalen, (*Jordaens*) 7 ft. 7 by 5 ft. 8.

41. St. Theresa interceding for souls in Purgatory, (*Rubens*) 7 ft. by 5.
42. Christ on the Cross, (*Van Dyck*) 3 ft. 8 by 7 ft. 4.
- 43 to 47. Sketches by *Rubens*.
48. A Portrait, (*Devos*.)

The Poor.—The Quarterly Review for August 1816, contains an article on the *poor*. We recommend it to the attention of our readers, as an able and profound disquisition upon this subject, in which the sources of individual prosperity, and the defences against want, are displayed with great perspicuity. It contains no splendid theories or projects. The writer's opinions are familiar to the mind of every sensible man. In a style vigorous, entertaining and eloquent, he, in an intelligible manner, (and this is saying much in favour of a writer on this subject) directs the poor, how to fence against poverty, and the rich, how to assist them in doing it. The literary reader will, perhaps, think the style a little extravagant in some parts, and that the writer indulges himself in some license in the choice and application of words.

Donations made to the Boston Athenæum in January, 1817.—

Jan. 6. Geographical view of the District of Maine. By Joseph Whipple, Esq.

Jan. 8. Several Pamphlets. By John E. Hall, Esq. of Baltimore.

Jan. 10. Rev. Samuel Worcester's Sermon. By Cummings and Hilliard.

Jan. 12. Inaugural Address, &c. By Jacob Bigelow, M. D.

Jan. 15. *Coelii Sedulii Scoti Poemata Sacra.* Edinb. 1701, 12mo. By Fr. A. Vander Kemp, Esq.

Jan. 16. The busts of Alexander, Bonaparte, Blucher, and two of Wellington, a miniature figure of Bonaparte. By John T. Reed, Esq.

Jan. 17. Inaugural Address, &c. By John Gorham, M. D.

Jan. 20. Extraordinary Red Book, &c. 12mo. London 1816. By James Magee, Esq.

Jan. 29. The works of John, Lord Viscount Bolingbroke. 7 vols. 4to. London, 1777, 1798, splendid edition, Russia binding. By William Minot, Esq.

Jan. 26. The miscellaneous works of Tim Bobbin, 12mo. By Francis Wilby, Esq.

Jan. 28. Christian Baptism, a Sermon by A. Judson. By Lincoln and Edmunds.

A bundle containing sixty Pamphlets. By Benjamin L. Weld, Esq.

Jan. 31. The trial of Lord Cochrane, and two French pamphlets. A complete suit of Armour, sword, &c. of one of Bonaparte's "Cuirassiers" slain at the battle of Waterloo. A "croix d'honneur," taken from a French officer killed at the battle of Waterloo, and a number of coins, &c. By Capt. Thomas Clements.

"Nouveau Plan routier de Paris, 1816.

"Le Nouveau Testament, traduit, De le M. De Sacy. Paris edit. stereotype, 1816, 8vo. By Daniel P. Parker.

An Elementary treatise on Mineralogy and Geology, by the Author, Professor P. Cleveland.

A map of the District of Maine. By Moses Greenleaf, Esq.

Unity of God, a Sermon, by S. C. Thacher.

Rev. John Codman's Sermon at Ordination of Leonard Withinton. By ———.

Address of the Society for the encouragement of American manufactures.

The following is a statement of the quantities and value of the principal articles of domestick produce, exported from the United States during the year ending in September last.

	<i>Quantity.</i>	<i>Dollars.</i>
Fish, dried, quintals - - - -	217,892	935,000
—Pickled, kegs 6,983, and barrels - - - -	37,979	221,000
Oil, Whale and other fish, gallons - -	177,810	116,000
—Sperm, gallons, 2756, and Candles, lbs. - - - -	116,919	59,000
Total produce of Fisheries - - - -		1,331,000
Furs and Skins - - - - -		553,000
Lumber - - - - -		4,004,000
Naval Stores, tar, pitch, rosin, and turpentine -		798,000
Ashes, pot, tons, 5461, pearl, 1892 - - -		1,630,000
Total produce of the forest, - - - -		7,293,000
Provisions and live stock - - - - -		2,093,000
Grain and all vegetable food - - - - -		13,150,000
Tobacco, hhds. 69,241, - - - - -		12,809,000
Cotton, S. I. 9,900,326 lbs. other, 72,046,790 do.		24,106,000
Flax seed, bushels, 636,467, - - - - -		1,082,000
Other agricultural products - - - - -		114,000
Total produce of agriculture - - - -		53,354,000

Manufactures of domestick materials	-	-	-	1,415,000
—————of foreign materials	-	-	-	340,000
Total of manufactures	-	-	-	1,755,000
Articles not distinguished	-	-	-	1,040,000
Total of domestick articles	-	-	-	64,782,000
Foreign articles exported	-	-	-	17,138,556
Total of exports	.	-	-	81,926,452

The amount of auction duty paid in the city of New-York, during the year 1816, was \$159,159 83. The tax is 1 1-2 per cent. on the amount of sales. The sales therefore must have amounted to the gross sum of \$10,610,653.

Pekin Gazette.—The *Pekin Gazette* for November 13, 1814, begins with maxims and exhortations on governing with sincerity, drawn up by his Majesty. His style of addressing his subjects is quite different from the European. “At this moment, says he, great degeneracy prevails; the magistrates are destitute of truth, and great numbers of people are false and deceitful.—The magistrates are remiss and inattentive; the people are all given up to visionary schemes, and infernal arts. The link that binds together superiours and inferiours is broken. There is little of either conscience or a sense of shame. Not only do they neglect to obey the admonitions which I give them; but even with respect to those traitorous banditti, who make the most horrible opposition to me, it affects not their minds in the least degree; they never give the subject a thought. It is, indeed, monstrously strange! That which weighs with *me* is their persons and families; the nation and the government, *they* consider light as nothing.”

“The virtue of the common people is like the waving grain; it bends with every wind that blows.”

“Think what kind of men will future ages describe you. Will they not engrave infamy on your back!”

The distinction between a patriot and a traitor is expressed by two words, “true, false.” In the morning and at night, lay your hands upon your hearts, and you will understand without the aid of words.”

The next article informs us that seventeen persons were ordered to execution as rebels, of whom some were *cut into minute pieces*, others beheaded. Thirty-five being sentenced to *transportation*; his majesty graciously commuted their punishment for that of strangling.

Then follows an imperial edict.

"Yesterday my Royal Cousin stated verbally, that a great many of the imperial kindred had taken names containing three characters, and which did not form a Tartar word. He requested that they should be ordered to change their names. His request is by no means proper. Those under Tartar banners adopting a Chinese name, are not permitted to take three characters. This is with the intention that they *may be distinguished from the Chinese*. If they be ordered to change (their names) it will occasion much trouble and confusion, and be unsuitable to the dignity of government."

"It is ordered that in all these cases, they act as heretofore.—*It is unnecessary to deliberate upon it. Respect this.*"

A translation of this Gazette is published at Calcutta.

Translations of the Scriptures.—About thirty different versions of the Scriptures have been undertaken at Serampore. A small pamphlet has been published at Serampore, a copy of which is in the Boston Athenæum, containing specimens of these translations in the characters of twenty-seven different languages.

The New-York Historical Society has appointed the following gentlemen on committees to promote the objects of the society. Zoology, Dr. S. L. Mitchell, De Witt Clinton, Esq and — Le Conte, Esq. Botany and vegetable Physiology, Dr. Hosack, C. W. Eddy, Esq. and — Le Conte Esq. Mineralogy and Fossils, Col. Gibbs. Dr. Bruce, Dr. Mitchell, Rev. Mr. Shaeffer, Messrs. J. G. Bogert and J. Pintard. Collection of coins and medals, Mr. J. G. Bogert, A. Bleeker, Esq. and Dr. Mitchell. Collection of Manuscripts, De Witt Clinton, Esq. Dr. Hosack, and Mr. J. Pintard. Collection of Books relating to American History, Mr. J. Eastburn, Mr. J. Smith, and Dr. J. W. Francis.

This society seems to pursue the objects of its institution, with a well directed zeal; but the multiplicity and variety of these objects, one would think, might be an obstacle to its utility and success. This difficulty cannot probably, at present, be avoided, for we are a young nation, and have not yet advanced far enough to effect the most advantageous division of labour, in literature and the sciences, any more than in the useful arts. Time and industry will, at length, bring us right in both.

LITERARY.

Records of the life of the Rev. John Murray, late minister of the reconciliation, and senior pastor of the Universalists congregated in Boston. The records contain anecdotes of the author's infancy, and are extended to some years after the commencement of his publick labours in America. To which is added, a brief continuation of the closing scene. By a friend.

To Christian friends this volume makes appeal
Friends are indulgent, Christian friends can feel.

Boston, published by Munroe and Francis, No. 4, Cornhill.

Wells and Lilly, Boston, have lately received from London, a volume of Poems, by Hannah More, which they have put to press. They have finished the printing, and will publish next week : " A Series of Popular Essays, illustrative of principles essentially connected with the improvement of the understanding, the imagination, and the heart. By Elizabeth Hamilton, Author of Letters on the elementary principles of education, Cottagers of Glenburnie, &c. In two volumes."

EDITORIAL NOTE.

WITH the present Number, which completes the fourth Volume of the North-American Review, the responsibility of the present Editor ceases. The contributions to the work have gradually increased; and several gentlemen forming a society for the purpose have particularly promised their efforts to the future Editor, to aid him in filling the pages of the succeeding numbers. This journal is not subservient to any sect religious or political. Its main object is the encouragement of American Literature. The present Editor, in returning his thanks to those persons whose good will has been shown in support of the work, hopes they will still continue it, and is very confident that the future numbers will afford them more gratification.